

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, FINANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY
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COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT, INTEGRATION, AND OVERSIGHT
MICHAEL D. ROGERS, CHAIRMAN



OVERSIGHT HEARING:
***“Department of Homeland Security Information Technology Challenges
and the Future of eMerge²”***

*Wednesday, March 29, 2006, 3:00 PM
2247 Rayburn House Office Building*

OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN PLATTS

I would first like to welcome Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Meek and the other Members of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Management, Integration, and Oversight. Thank you for holding this joint hearing today and for your important work with these issues. Sometimes management issues are overlooked in the larger policy debate, but sound management is absolutely critical to the success of any program.

One of the primary reasons for the creation of the Department was to streamline processes and realize efficiencies – in short, to spend less on overhead and more on protecting America. The effective use of information technology is a key tool in reaching that goal, and today’s hearing will take an important look at the initiatives now underway at the Department. The success of eMerge² has broad implications for the Department, and the shared services model that is being employed will serve as an important test case for the government-wide Financial Management Line of Business initiative being proposed by the Office of Management and Budget. Proper management of information technology – the eMerge² program in particular – is a top priority for our Subcommittee, something we have followed closely for the past three years and something we will continue to focus on.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses and appreciate the work you do to support DHS.